

## LIMITED WARRANTY

DB DRIVE warrants any products purchased in the U.S.A. from an authorized DB DRIVE dealer. All products are warranted to be free from defects in material and workmanship under normal use and service for a period of (1) year when the unit is installed by an authorized DB DRIVE dealer. Non-authorized dealer installed products carry a one (1) year parts and labor limited warranty. This warranty applies to the original purchase only.

DB DRIVE will either repair or replace (as its option) any unit that has been found to be defective and under warranty provided the defect occurs within:

One (1) year if purchased through an authorized DB DRIVE dealer.

This limited warranty does not extend to units that have been subjected to misuse, abuse, neglect, or accident. Products that in DB DRIVE's judgment shows evidence of having been altered, modified, or serviced without DB DRIVE's authorization, will be ineligible under this warranty.

To obtain warranty service please contact your retailer or see our web site at [www.dbdrive.net](http://www.dbdrive.net) for more details.



**DB Research L.L.P.**

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# APA 80.4

## MARINE AMPLIFIER

**User Manual**

• Installation Instructions / Owners Manual •

Due to continuous improvement of the product the Specifications are subject to change without notice.

# SPECIFICATIONS

Input Voltage @ 11 - 14.4 VDC:	<b>APA 80.4</b>
@ 4 ohm	4 x 80 watts
@ 4 ohms Bridged	2 x 200 watts
@ 2 ohm	4 x 140 watts
Frequency Resp.	10Hz-20Khz
S/N Ratio (A-weight)	>98dB
Low Input Level	200mV. - 5.0 V
Crossover Type	Hi/Low Pass
Crossover Freq. (Lowpass)	50Hz - 250Hz
Crossover Freq. (Highpass)	120Hz - 3KHz
Crossover Slope	12db per oct
Bass EQ.	6 - 12 dB @ 45Hz
Fuse Rating	2 x 20 amp
Remote Bass	n/a

DRIVE



## FINE TUNE THE SYSTEM

### *Fine tune the amplifier's input sensitivity*

The gain sensitivity control for the "APA Series" amplifier is located on the side panel. This gain control has been included to allow adjustment to properly match the output of the radio. This is one of the most misunderstood adjustments. By rotating the control in the clockwise direction, the amplifier's input will become more sensitive and the music will play louder. This is not a volume control and you will not get more power out of the amplifier in the maximum position! It may seem to deliver more output, but actually the system is only playing louder faster as you turn the volume control on the radio. Ideally, to properly level match the system the goal is to achieve maximum output from the amplifier without distortion at about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the volume control.

To determine if the amplifier's gain is set properly, turn the system on and slowly increase the volume control. You should be able to use about  $\frac{3}{4}$  volume before the system gets loud but not distorting. It is very important when making these adjustments that you do not over drive the speakers (at point of distortion) this will cause permanent damage to the speakers. If you are unable to achieve  $\frac{3}{4}$  volume before distortion you will need to adjust gain control (in this case you would reduce the gain). The gain controls should be adjusted very slowly. It may help to have another person to assist you by adjusting the gain controls while you listen for distortion.

### Input Level



## TROUBLE SHOOTING THE SYSTEM

We have put together this trouble-shooting guide if you experience problems after installing the amplifier. Please keep in mind that the majority of problems incurred are caused by improper installation and not the equipment itself. In addition, there are many components in the system that could cause various signal problems such as inducted electrical noise and engine noise.

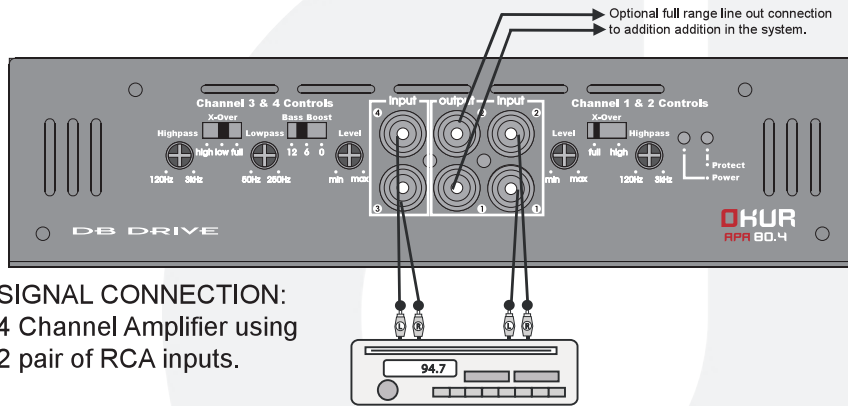
Before you can properly address the problem, you must first find the component that is causing the problem. This will take patience and a process of elimination.

LOOK FOR.....	SOLUTION
<b>No Output</b>	
Blown fuse	Replace
Bad RCA Cable(s)	Replace
+12V at power terminal	Check connection
+12V at remote terminal	Check connection
Grounding point clean and tight	Check for ground w/meter
Head Unit's fader not in center position	Set to center position
Master & Slave settings	Confirm correct setting
<b>Low Output</b>	
Check level adjustments	
<b>Re-adjust</b>	
Bad RCA cable(s)	Replace
Improper level matching	Re-adjust
Master & Slave settings	Confirm correct setting
<b>Engine Noise</b>	
Grounding points are clean and tight	Check for ground w/meter
Ground all components at same point	Ground at same point
Try different grounding point	Change for better ground
Bad RCA cable(s)	Replace
Use High Quality shielded RCA cables	Rejects inducted noise
Low Vehicle charging system and/or battery	Fix and/or replace
<b>Red Protection L.E.D. illuminated</b>	
Speaker short	Check speakers connection for short circuit
Speaker grounding out	Make sure speaker wires Do not touch chassis ground
Impedance too low	Check speaker impedance
Overheating	Check mounting location for Adequate air circulation speaker impedance too low

## SIGNAL CONNECTIONS

Connect the RCA output of the head unit (AM/FM cassette player, CD, or DAT) to the RCA input terminals of the amplifier.

To make these connections, we recommend high quality RCA cables, which are available at your local car audio retailer. Run signal wires away from electrical wires to avoid possibility of induced noise from the car's electrical system (i.e. popping noises or engine noise).

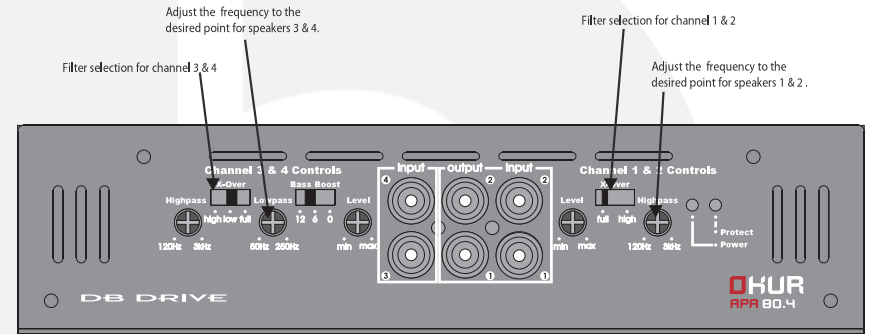


**SIGNAL CONNECTION:**  
4 Channel Amplifier using  
2 pair of RCA inputs.

## ADJUSTMENTS AND SETTINGS

### APA 80.4

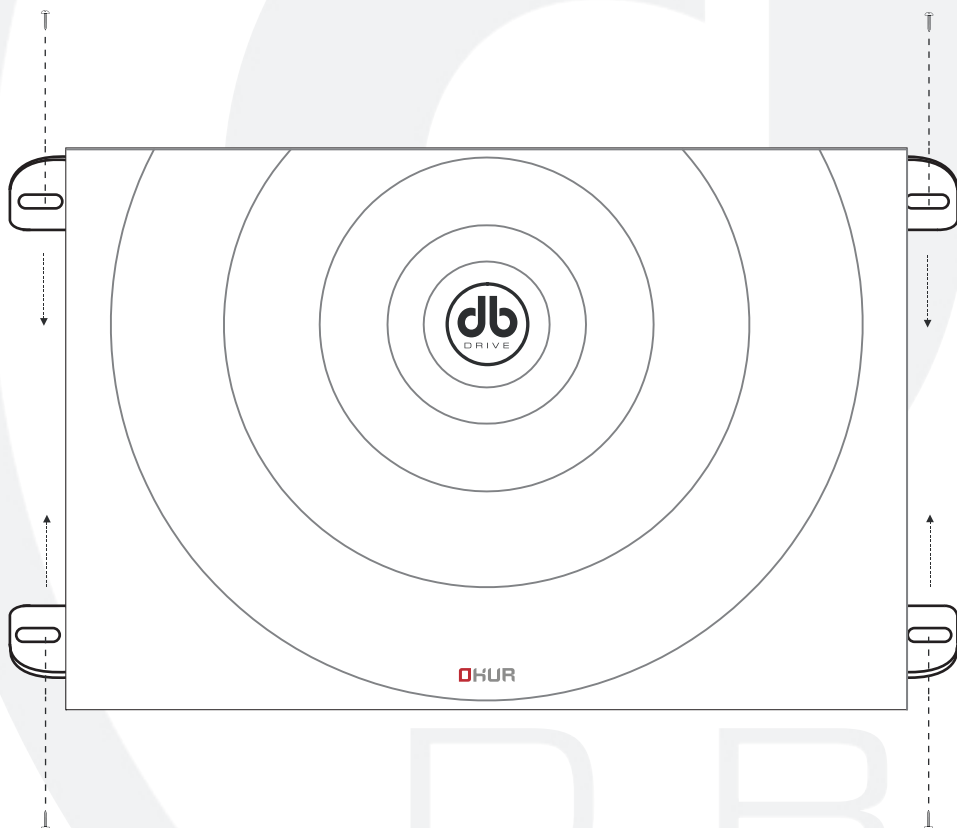
The "APA Series" amplifiers are equipped with built-in variable crossover networks allowing you to select the crossover mode (i.e. Low-Pass/Full/High-Pass or On/Off) and the desired crossover point. For example if you wish to drive a pair of subwoofers, you can select the "Low Pass" setting on the amplifier to filter out high frequencies. This will send only low frequencies to your subwoofers (see example settings below). The crossover point should be determined by the speakers operating range. Please refer to speaker manufactures recommended crossover point.



## MOUNTING LOCATION

Before you start the installation, it will be necessary to find a mounting location for the amplifier. Find a location in which the amplifier will receive adequate ventilation in order to dissipate the heat it develops during operation. Two popular mounting locations are in the trunk or under the seat.

Select the location in which you wish to mount the amplifier. Use caution when mounting amplifier, there are many wires, gas lines, vacuum lines, brake lines as well as a gas tank in the automobile. Make sure you know where they are when mounting the amplifier to avoid puncturing lines, shorting wires or drilling holes in the gas tank. Once you are ready, use a pencil to mark the mounting holes in the bottom panel. After you have marked the locations of the holes move amplifier out of the way and drill small starter holes to make the tapping screws easier to install. Use provided screws to tighten down the **amplifier**.



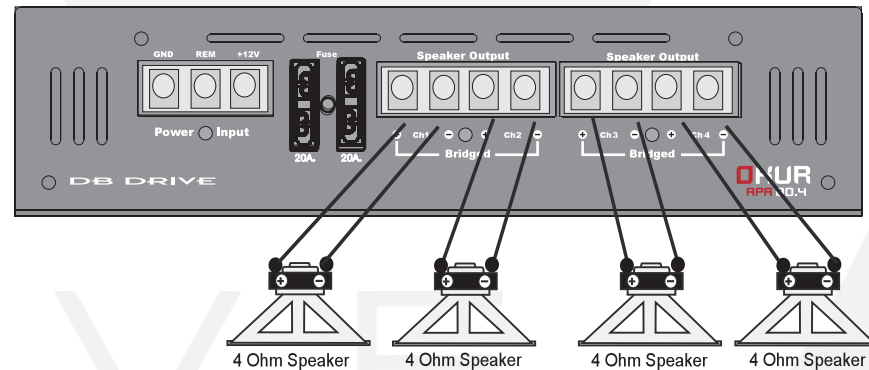
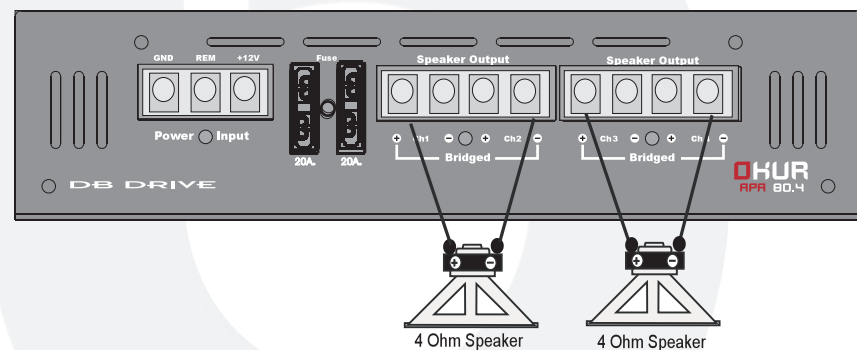
## SPEAKER CONNECTIONS

( APA 80.4 )

***Make the speaker connections using speaker wire that is at least 16 gauge or heavier.***

As with any audio component, proper phasing of the amplifier and speakers is essential for strong bass response. When connecting, make sure that positive (+) from the amplifier is connected to the positive (+) of the speaker, and the same for negative (-).

**\*\*\*CAUTION!** In the bridged mode, the amplifier must see a 4 Ohm load or higher. Any lower than 4 ohms will cause the amplifier to overheat and possible cause permanent damage to the amplifier!



## FEATURES AND BENEFITS

### ***DC Offset Protection***

This circuit protects the output of the amplifier against DC voltage. If for some reason DC voltage is detected at the output stage, the amplifier will shut down protecting the speakers from direct current.

### ***Short Circuit Protection***

The circuit protects the amplifier from damage due to a short found in the speakers or wiring. If one of the speakers or its wiring comes in contact with ground, the amplifier will shut down. To resume normal operation, correct the problem and turn the head unit off, then back on. The amplifier will reset and play again.

### ***Thermal Protection***

To protect the amplifier circuitry against damage caused by prolonged exposure to high temperatures, a thermal protection circuit is activated if the amplifier reaches excessively high operating temperature. Once the thermal circuit is activated, the amplifier will shut down to cool off. The amplifier will automatically turn back on once it cools down to a safe operating temperature.

### ***Power Indicator***

The diagnostic L.E.D. illuminates when the amplifier is on and receiving power.

### ***Built-in Crossover***

The "APA Series" amplifiers include a built-in variable crossovers. The APA 80.4 also offers the same frequency selection with the option of low or high pass filtering.

### ***Power and Speaker Distribution Blocks***

Heavy gauge bare wire distribution blocks are provided for maximum power and signal transfer with minimal resistance.

### ***Bass Boost***

For added low frequency performance the amplifiers are equipped with a variable \*0~12 dB bass boost @ 45Hz.

### ***Line out***

Full range line outputs have been provided for convenient connection to additional amplifiers in the system. The outputs are buffered to reduce signal loss. Please note that the amplifier's input level adjusts these level outputs.

### ***Power Fusing***

This protects the amplifier against short circuits and excessive current.

### ***Remote Turn-on***

Automatically turns amplifier on when connected to the head unit's remote output. The amplifier will turn on and off with the head unit to save current consumption. This control also operates the reset circuit for the amplifier's protection. It must be connected with the head unit in order to reset protection circuits.

### ***Adjustable Input Sensitivity***

Allows you to fine-tune the level matching between your source and the power amplifier.





## INTRODUCTION

Congratulations on your purchase of a DB Drive state-of-the-art power amplifier. Your selection of a DB Drive car audio product indicates a true appreciation of fine musical reproduction. Whether adding to an existing system or including your DB Drive amplifier in a new system, you are certain to notice immediate performance benefits.

## KEEP YOUR SALES RECEIPT

Take this time to attach your sales receipt to the manual and put in a safe place. In case of any unforeseen reason this product may need warranty service, your receipt will be necessary to establish purchase date.

## RECOMMENDATION

A power amplifier's performance is only as good as its installation. Proper installation will maximize the system's overall performance. It is recommended that you have our product installed by an authorized DB Drive retailer. However, if you decide to install it yourself, please carefully read through this manual and take your time to do a quality installation.

Due to continuing product improvements and possible manual revisions, we recommend checking our website for latest product information at [www.dbdrive.net](http://www.dbdrive.net).

**IMPORTANT!** Before making any connections, disconnect the car's battery until the installation is completed to avoid possible damage to the electrical system.

### WARNING!

**Exposure to high power sound system can cause hearing loss or damage. Listening to your system at loud levels while driving will impair your ability to hear traffic sounds and emergency vehicles. Use common sense when listening to your system.**

Serial # \_\_\_\_\_

Model # \_\_\_\_\_



## SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

### ***Fuse amplifiers power wire at the battery***

Be sure to fuse the power wire within 12" of the car's battery. This will protect the car's battery in case of a short circuit between the power amplifier and battery. **THIS IS A MUST**, the amplifier's built-in fuse will only protect the power amplifier not the car's battery!

### ***Use high grade wire connectors***

To ensure maximum power transfer and secure safe connections, it is recommended to use high grade barrier spades (for connection at amplifier) and terminal rings (for connection at battery).

### ***Do not run any wires underneath vehicle***

Exposed wires have a chance of being cut or damaged. It is best to run all wires through the vehicle under the carpet and/or side panels. This lends to a cleaner installation and less risk of damage.

### ***Use caution when mounting amplifier***

Remember there are many electrical wires, gas lines, vacuum lines, brake lines as well as a gas tank in the automobile. Make sure you know where they are when mounting the amplifier to avoid puncturing lines, shorting wires or drilling holes in the gas tank.

### ***Run signal wires away from electrical wires***

To avoid possibility of induced noise from the car's electrical system (i.e. popping noises or engine noise), run wires away from the car's electrical wiring.

### ***Make all ground wires as short as possible and at the same point***

In order to reduce the chance of ground loops (i.e. engine noise), make the grounding wire as short as possible to reduce the wire's resistance. Also, when using multiple components, make sure all units are grounded at the same point.

### ***Avoid sharp edges when running the wires***

To avoid the possibility of power, signal or speaker shorts, be careful not to allow the amplifiers wires to come in contact with sharp edges. Use a grommet to protect the wire when running through the fire wall.